IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1–18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for at least one of loading and unloading goods units to and from a transport compartment in a loading and unloading direction, the goods units having a base, the apparatus comprising:

at least one conveying unit~~:~~ being at least partly inserted into the transport compartment and simultaneously conveying a plurality of goods units therein;

having:

at least two crossmembers connected to a fixed structure;

a support beam operatively connected to the crossmembers and being movable with respect to the crossmembers;

at least two gripping units disposed one after another in the loading and unloading direction for insertion into the transport compartment, each gripping unit including two legs being movable with respect to one another, the goods units being clamped between the two legs when the gripping unit engages the goods units;

~~a crossmember;~~

at least two lifting units for lifting the goods units off of their base in a vertical direction perpendicular to the loading and unloading direction; and

at least one guide ~~and support~~ unit operatively connected to said gripping units, said gripping units being mounted via said support beam and at least one guide ~~and support~~ unit to said crossmembers, said

~~crossmember~~ support beam and said at least one guide ~~and support~~ unit cooperating together to permit movement of said gripping units relative to said crossmembers in a transverse direction that is perpendicular with respect to both the loading and unloading direction and the vertical direction.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said conveying unit ~~one of:~~ is installed fixedly in a loading region; and is movable upon supporting rollers in the loading region.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein:
at least one of said gripping units has pick-up region; and
said guide and support unit is disposed above said pick-up region.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein:
said conveying unit is installed fixedly in a loading region of a building; and
said guide and support unit is to be mounted on a ceiling of the building.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said gripping units is mounted displaceably on said guide and support unit.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said guide and support unit has: an end pointing in a direction of the transport compartment; and a supporting element disposed at least at said end.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said gripping units move with at least two degrees of freedom.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said gripping units move freely with regard to at least one degree of freedom during at least one of a loading operation and an unloading operation.

28. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said conveying unit has supporting rollers for supporting at least one goods unit.

29. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein transport compartment is a commercial motor vehicle.

30-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for at least one of loading and unloading goods units to and from a transport compartment, the apparatus comprising:

at least two crossmembers;

a support beam operatively connected to the crossmembers and extending in a substantially horizontal direction, the support beam being movable with respect to the crossmembers;

a crossbeam extending in a direction substantially transverse to the support beam and having a first end and a second end disposed opposite the first end;

a first leg connected to the first end of the ~~cross-beam~~ crossbeam and extending downwardly in a substantially vertical direction from the crossbeam;

a second leg connected to the second end of the ~~cross-beam~~ crossbeam and extending downwardly in a substantially vertical direction from the

crossbeam, the first and second legs being movable toward one another to clamp the goods units and away from one another to release the goods units; and

a hydraulic cylinder connecting the crossbeam to the support beam, the cylinder being movable between a retracted condition, in which the crossbeam is moved toward the support beam to lift the goods units, and an extended condition, in which the crossbeam is moved away from the support beam to lower the goods units.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the crossbeam is connected to the support beam for translational movement with respect to the support beam.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the crossbeam is connected to the support beam for pivotal movement with respect to the support beam.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the crossbeam includes a hydraulic driver for moving the first and second legs with respect to one another, the hydraulic driver being movable between a clamped condition, in which the legs are moved toward one another to engage the sides of the goods units with a force-locking connection, and a unclamped condition, in which the legs are moved away from one another to disengage the goods units.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the legs do not extend below the goods units and the goods units are free of any support between the goods units and a floor surface.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 32, ~~further comprising cross-members~~ wherein the crossmembers are connected to a fixed structure and ~~supporting~~ support the support beam for translational movement with respect to the fixed structure.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a frame having rollers and supporting the support beam.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of moving goods units having a base between a loading region and a transport compartment, the method comprising the acts of:
providing a conveying unit including a movable support beam operatively connected to at least two crossmembers connected to a fixed structure, at least one gripping unit having two legs being movable with respect to one another to engage the goods units, and at least one lifting unit connecting the gripping unit to the support beam;
positioning the gripping unit adjacent the goods units in at least one of the loading region and the transport compartment;
engaging the goods units with the gripping unit by moving the legs toward one another to clamp the goods units and apply opposing forces on opposite sides of the goods units;
lifting the goods units off of the base with the lifting unit;
moving the support beam, thereby transporting the gripping unit and the goods unit to the other of the loading region and the transport compartment;
lowering the goods units back on the base with the lifting unit; and
disengaging the goods units from the gripping unit by moving the legs away from one another to unclamp the goods units.